

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. QA-474

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic 203 Broadway

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 203 Broadway not for publicationcity, town Centreville vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Queen Anne's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u>XX</u> public	<u> </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture
<u>XX</u> building(s)	<u> </u> private	<u>XX</u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u>XX</u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial
	<u>XX</u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military
			<u>XX</u> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name County Commissioners of Queen Anne's County

street & number 208 North Commerce Street telephone no.: 301-758-0322

city, town Centreville state and zip code Maryland 21617

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Queen Anne's County Courthouse liber MWM 335

street & number folio 46

city, town Centreville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. QA-474

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	<u>XX</u> unaltered	<u>XX</u> original site
<u>XX</u> good	___ ruins	___ altered	___ moved
___ fair	___ unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

DESCRIPTION

The house at 203 Broadway is located in downtown Centreville, Queen Anne's County. Constructed either in late 1891 or early 1892, the house stands one block northwest of the county courthouse and is next to the county jail at the northwest corner of Liberty and Broadway.

The two-and-one-half story frame house, now covered with wood-grained asbestos shingles and asphalt roofing, has a modified L plan. Victorian details, such as an asymmetrical facade with a semi-octagonal bay, large pane 2/2 windows, and jig sawn ornaments embellish this relatively modest, center-entrance house.

The house faces north. The west side of the facade projects forward toward the street with a two-story, semi-octagonal bay. A bank of windows in a 1/1, 2/2, and 1/1 pattern are centered in the middle three panels of the five-sided bay. An ogee cornice separates the bay's first and second floors. A lancet window lights the gable end of the attic formed by the cross wing. The pitched gable roof over this part of the house is set perpendicular to the main block.

The recessed, east side of the facade is ornamented by a one-story porch. The chamfered posts have square capitals formed of ogee-profile cornice molding. Jig-sawn brackets decorate the porch eaves. There is no balustrade, although a horizontal groove ringing each post may be evidence of a previous railing. The porch ceiling is beaded, tongue-and-groove and the porch roof is covered with standing seam tin.

The glazed door has raised panels on the bottom half and is framed by a transom and sidelights that terminate in panels with recessed fields. A bank of three 1/1 windows lies to the east of the door. Three 2/2 windows with louvered shutters are evenly spaced on the second floor. An ogee-profile wood cornice runs along the eaves.

The east, gable end is one room deep. A pair of narrow 1/1 windows are centered on the first and second floors and are fitted with metal louvered shutters. A lancet window lights the attic; plain rakeboards define the eaves. A small window with bars ventilates the cellar.

The original service wing forms the L at the back (south) of the house. The fenestration on the back wall of the main house is irregular. A small window is located near the juncture with the wing and a door is immediately to the east. One 2/2 window with shutter pintels is centered in the second floor.

The service wing extends from the west side of the south wall and is wrapped with a two-story porch. The wing is three bays long and one room deep. The first floor fenestration on the long side is

See Continuation Sheet 7.1

evenly spaced, with a door and transom in the first bay followed by two 2/2 windows with shutter pintels. The second floor fenestration consists of a glazed door in the first bay and a 2/2 window with shutter pintels on the third bay.

The two-story porch has been partially rebuilt leaving one original post with chamfered edges. A trap door in the tongue-and-groove decking leads to a cellar under the east half of the main house.

The porch drops to one story as it turns the corner around the gable end of the service wing. The wing is one room deep, but two bays wide. There is a door to the east, and a squat, 2/2 window to the west. The 2/2 second floor window is positioned over the kitchen window. The 2/2 square attic window is on the same vertical axis.

The west side of the house is five bays long and includes the main block of the house and the service wing. A brick chimney rises above the second bay and a recessed chimney rises from the gable end of the wing. Five windows are evenly spaced in each story, although the type of window and shutters varies, according to room use and repairs.

The plan of the first floor consists of four rooms: a parlor in the east half of the main house, a living room in the west half, and a dining room and kitchen in the service wing. The second floor chambers roughly correspond to the first floor plan. Circulation patterns and room finish reinforce the hierarchy of space within the house.

The front door opens directly into the parlor. The sense of a vestibule, however cramped, is created by the turn of the staircase five feet ahead. To the left is an unimpeded passage into the parlor. To the right is a squared archway with a bar transom.

The parlor staircase rises four steps to a landing, turns 90 degrees, continues up to a suspended landing, turns 180 degrees, and continues up to the second floor. The turned balusters and panelled spandrels create an ornamental screen that blocks the visitor from going straight into the room or up the staircase, and forces the visitor to turn either left or right. The principal architectural feature of the parlor is the winding staircase. The first step fans out and is embellished with two square newel posts with bold geometric carving. Balusters turned with balls and rings and paneled spandrels complete the ornamental design.

The only other embellishments in the parlor are the window sills on the north and east walls. Although the architrave is simply butted together, the sills have deep profiles consisting of a beaded edge, oval projection, fillet, and beaded edge. The glazed doorway and bank of windows on the north wall and the pair of windows on the east wall provide an exceptional amount of natural light into the room. A four-panel door on the south wall opens onto the back porch. The room is unheated except for a large "CALORIC" furnace grate in the vestibule.

See Continuation Sheet 7.2

The parlor's status as a special room in the house is expressed not so much through its finish, which other than the staircase is relatively plain, but through the parlor's isolation from the domestic core of the house. The stairway is an ornamental feature in the room, but its twisting ascent visually maintains the family's privacy on the second floor. Once in the parlor, the only other room a guest could glimpse is the living room.

In contrast, the living room is tied into the family's domestic activities. Although part of the main block of the house, it is also on the same axis as the dining room and kitchen wing. The three rooms are connected to one another by an open passageway. This unfolding panorama of domestic and service space reinforces the idea that the west front room was the living room and not the formal parlor.

The living room has several special architectural features. At first glance, the fireplace along the south wall and three-sided bay on the north render this room more formal than the parlor. But the family hearth and inglenook were architectural features advocated by Victorian architects and domestic advisors as places that fostered proper domesticity. A chimney stack with small, now plastered, hearth and a small furnace grate mark the transition from stove to furnace heating. The window trim and baseboards are identical to those in the parlor.

A doorway to the east of the fireplace leads into the service wing. On the east wall, a door opens onto the cellar stairs. On the west, a steep flight of stairs ascends to the second floor.

The dining room is not a formal space. Its wainscoting connotes a utilitarian rather than ceremonious dining space. The window sills on the east and west walls are less embellished than in the front rooms, consisting of beaded edges flanking two fillets. The door opening onto the side porch could serve as the primary family entrance, reserving the front door for company use. There is a small furnace grate in the floor. A modern bathroom has been fitted along the west wall, under the service staircase, and protrudes into the dining room.

A narrow partition wall separates the dining room from the kitchen. There is no arch or doorway. The corners of the partition are ornamented by turned corner beads. One piece of original kitchen shelving remains opposite the partition wall. The single shelf is attached to the wall with curved wooden brackets ornamented with jig-sawn circles; this pattern is identical to the brackets embellishing the front porch eaves.

The window trim on the kitchen's east wall is identical to the windows in the dining room. The windows on the south and west walls are simply rabbetted, and show signs of alteration. The window on the south wall, to the west of the kitchen door has been raised, perhaps to accommodate the taller height of modern kitchen appliances. A small chimney stack with stove flue, with the hearth

plastered over, is centered on the south, gable wall. Although most of the nails in the house are wire, the kitchen wainscoting is affixed with machine cut nails.

The parlor staircase rises to a window-lit landing on the second floor. The ceilings on the second floor are lower than on the first and all the rooms have simpler sills consisting of two fillets and one beaded edge. The chambers correspond to the first floor plan. Only the chambers over the living room and kitchen were heated.

The attic staircase is tucked behind the chimney wall of the living room chamber. The roof is constructed of circular sawn, common rafters joined to a ridge board. Wire nails predominate but cut nails were used for shingling. The attic is unfinished except for flooring.

The cellar extends only under the parlor. The brick walls and a cement slab floor are 20th century modifications that indicate the cellar was enlarged when a modern heating system was installed. The cellar is reached either from the outside through the trap door in the side porch, or from the inside staircase in the service wing.

A two-stall garage/carriage house with loft space stands in the southwest corner of the back yard. It is constructed of circular-sawn, vertical planks and wire nails. A 1903 Sanborn map reveals that it had a one story addition on the north side.

8. Significance

Survey No. QA-474

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1891 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

SIGNIFICANCE

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Development Period: 1870–1930

Industrial/Urban Dominance

Historic Period Themes: Architecture, Community Planning

The house at 203 Broadway is significant both for its interpretation of Victorian taste on a modest budget and for the insight it provides into the development of downtown Centreville.

The "L" shaped house has sparse ornamentation and small rooms, yet the plan and type of details reveal how Victorian embellishments were incorporated into ordinary structures. On the exterior, the asymmetrical facade with two-story semi-octagonal bay gives an otherwise boxy house the coveted appearance of a grander, irregular structure with nooks and crannies. The gable-end lancet windows and front porch with jig-sawn brackets invoke the popular "carpenter's Gothic." On the interior, Eastlake newel posts and an open transom with wood bars embellish an otherwise plain parlor. The semi-octagonal bay in the living room provides the inglenook romantically advocated by Victorian house designers as a place for quiet retreat. With its modified L-plan and projecting semi-octagonal bay, it is similar to the more elaborate Draper Residence (QA-327) on South Liberty Street.

Although the house was located just one block away from the county courthouse, the unassuming character of its immediate neighborhood was derived instead from the jail, two lumberyards, and Building Association-owned double houses on the same block.

See Continuation Sheet 8.1

The house was built either in late 1891 or early 1892 on a lot that had been used as the Robert G. Price Lumberyard in the 1870s and early 1880s. In March 1891 James E. Walters purchased the "lot and land" for \$500. A Sanborn map shows there was no house by June of that year, but in December 1891 Walters entered into a mortgage for \$1,200 with the mortgage requiring that he "keep insured the improvements on said premises." If the house was not built at the time of the mortgage, it was constructed shortly after.

In 1896 Walters defaulted and Rebecah Harrison took over the mortgage; two years later, 1898 Harrison sold the property to Robert E. Cahall for \$1,300. In 1900 Cahall sold it to J.A. Scotton for \$1,500. In 1916, Scotton sold the "2 1/2 story frame" house to William L. and Olivia D. Clough for \$1,800.

The house remained in the Clough family until 1972. In 1953, William Levi Clough bequeathed it to his sister for her lifetime and then to his children.

Anna Clough Howard sold the property to Lester C. Leonard in 1972, he entered bankruptcy in 1989, and the County Commissioners purchased the lot that year. The house is threatened with imminent demolition.

Sources:

"1877 Atlas of Kent & Queen Anne Counties Maryland."
Queen Anne County land and probate records, Centreville.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Centreville, 1891, 1903, 1908, 1915,
1923.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. QA-474

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1/8 acre

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Diane S. Wasch
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organization	Maryland Historical Trust	date	May 23, 1990
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street & number	21 State Circle	telephone	301-974-5000
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city or town	Annapolis	state	Maryland 21401
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Chain of Title for 203 Broadway, Centerville.

Liber:Folio	Date	Sale/Mort	Grantor to Grantee
MWM 335:46	5 Sept 1989	\$40,000	Ralph D. Kaiser Co., Inc. to County Commissioners of Queen Anne County
MWM 330:690	28 June 1989	transf.	Betty Lou Leonard (rep. estate of Lester C. Leonard in US Dist. Ct. (DC) Bankruptcy Case #85- 00141 to Ralph D. Kaiser Co. Inc.
CWC 60:611	3 Jan 1972	\$5.00	Anna C. and Paul L. Howard to Lester C. Leonard
CWC 13:276	5 Feb 1965	\$1.00 & \$60/mo rent to	Dorothy E. Connolly to Anna C. & Paul L. Howard "... parcel of land, K. Clough improved by a two and one-half story frame dwelling and outbuildings..."
CWC 13:274	28 Jan 1965	\$1.00 & \$60/mo rent to K. Clough	Anna C. & Paul L. Howard to Dorothy E. Connolly
noted in CWC 13:274	12 Jan 1965		Marion L. Clough deeds his half to Anna Howard
EEC 1:581	14 Dec 1953	WILL	William Levi Clough leaves property to sister K. Clough for her lifetime, and then to Marion L. Clough & Anna C. Howard.
WFW 9:374	11 Oct 1916	\$1,800	J. & Cora A. Scotton to William Levi & Olivia D. Clough "2 1/2 story frame"
JEG 1:65	25 Aug 1900	\$1,500	Robert E. Cahall to J.A. Scotton "buildings and improvements."
WHC 8:299	23 Sept 1898	\$1,300	Rebekah Harrison to Robert E. Cahall "all that lot or parcel of land."
WHC 6:168	5 Dec 1896	transf.	James Mackubin, atty. to Rebekah Harrison (Walters defaulted)

WD 6:327	23 Dec 1891	\$1,200	Achsah R. Pue/Pire mortgage to James E. Walters, Jr. and wife Amelia "must keep insured the improvements on said premises."
WD 6:325	23 Dec 1891		Robert M. & Matilda Price Sarah E. Price, widow T. Bedford & Annie H. Turner Andrew J. & Louise Thawley (clarification of title chain)
noted in " "	9 Mar 1891	\$500	Andrew J. Thawley to James E. Walters "lot and land"
noted in " "	25 May 1886	\$750	T. Bedford Turner to Andrew J. Thawley
noted in " "	19 Feb 1884	\$750	Robert M. Price & Sarah Price, widow to T. Bedford Turner
A30:254	9 Nov 1882	WILL	Robert G. Price wills property to Robert M. Price, subject to Sarah's dower
SED 2:104	16 Oct 1865	\$325	John & Mary E. Goldsborough to Robert G. Price "on south side of public road or street."

QA-474

3

ROBERT M. PRICE LUMBER & CO. INC.
Average Stock, \$50,000 Pr.

JESSE C. OWELL
Owner and
Manager

BROADWAY

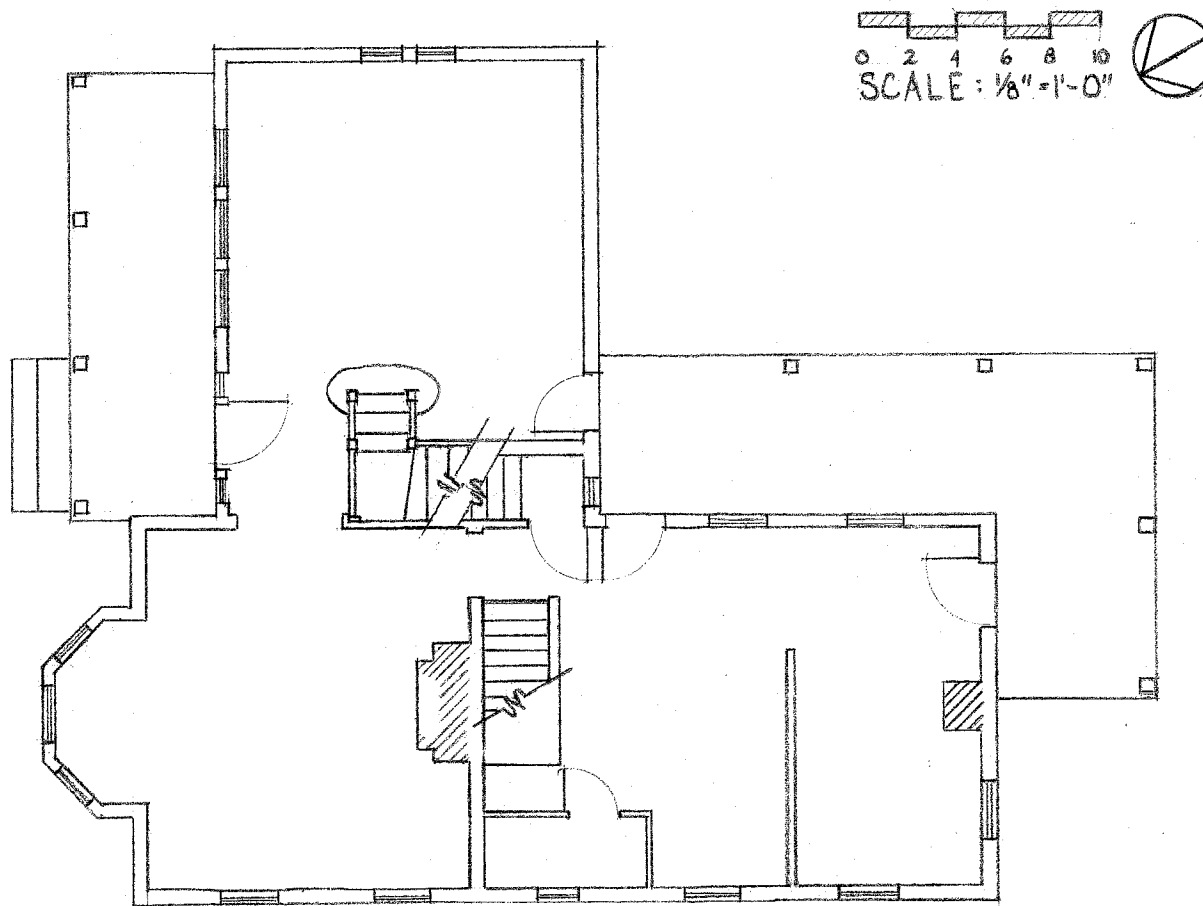
LIBERTY

JAIL

COURT HOUSE

10

WATER



DIANE S. WASCH

QA-474

203 BROADWAY
CENTREVILLE, MARYLAND

MAY 28, 1990.